

# Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee  
October 13, 2010  
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

# Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines = 33% - 99%
- Compliance with 5 min. 90% First Unit Arrival Response Time
  - City-Wide During Brownouts 54% (55% last year)
  - Districts During Brownouts 24- 80% (26-86% last year)
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
  - City-Wide During Brownouts 5:08 (5:03 last year)
  - Districts During Brownouts 3:49 – 6:38 (3:34-6:17 last year)

# Effective Fire Force

- Number of firefighters needed for a typical single family dwelling fire
  - 14-15 depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
  - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
  - City-Wide During Brownouts **71%** (70% last year)
  - Districts During Brownouts **0% - 100%** (39-100% last year)
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
  - City-Wide During Brownouts **8.08 minutes** (8.19 last year)

# Analysis of Response to Residential Structure Fire

- Residential Structure Fire in Mira Mesa on October 6, 2010, at 2:17 p.m.
- 9:29 engine response time
  - 4:29 longer than 5 minute goal
- 10:36 effective fire force assembly
  - 1:36 longer than 9 minute goal
- Delayed response due to
  - Multiple incidents occurring at the same time (call stacking)
  - Brownout of Engine 44 (Mira Mesa)
- An earlier arrival would have reduced fire loss



# Non-Emergency Impacts and Adjustments

- Reduced Manipulative Training Opportunities
  - Fewer units makes it difficult to go out-of-service for training
- Training Adjustments Made
  - Units allowed out-of-service at one time increased from 12 to 14
  - Units in Department-wide training sessions decreased from 5 to 3
  - More training delivered at fire stations or online
- Delays in Completing Fire Inspections
  - Fewer units are busier with emergency responses
  - Unable to keep up with fire inspection workload
  - 90-day overdue inspections up from 12% (April) to 20% (Aug)
  - Results in greater risk and revenue collection delays
- Inspection Adjustments Made
  - Light duty staff assigned when available

# Lifeguard Reductions

## ■ Personnel

- 8 Lifeguard FTEs
  - 4 filled (demoted to LGI)
  - 4 unfilled
- 1 Lifeguard II Training Coordinator
- Reduction of Hourly LG Budget
- Reduction of Overtime Budget



## ■ Non-Personnel

- Overlap Training Wednesdays Eliminated
- River Rescue Team Training Budget Cut by 50%

# Impacts of Reductions

- Loss of Beach Coverage at Torrey Pines
  - 2 fulltime LGs in Fall, Winter and Spring/1 fulltime LG in Summer
  - 3 hourly LGs on weekdays in Summer and 4 hourly LGs on weekends
  - Hourly LG positions during Spring Break and Spring/Fall weekends
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
  - 2 hourly LGs patrolled Torrey Pines Beach in summer
  - Standard Operating Procedure for Torrey Pines Beach responses
- Loss of Training Opportunities
  - Only minimum training required for safety being provided
- Adjustments Made for Training
  - Pre-shift and in-service training modules developed
  - Winter training plan developed for 10/2 implementation

# FY2012 Proposed Reductions \$7.2M

- Eliminate second helicopter staffing
- 5 engines/trucks added to 8 current brownouts
- Elimination of most lifeguard coverage on Mission Bay and all lifeguard coverage at N. Pacific Beach
- Reduced night crew lifeguard staffing at La Jolla
- Up to 60 firefighters and 1 pilot subject to lay-off
- 2 LG II's subject to demotion to LG I



Questions?